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Pankow's Friendship Campaign toward India

Pankow has been using India's celebration of its 25th anniversary as an occasion to push for establishment of diplomatic relations between the two. The East German media have taken note of the celebration in many laudatory articles. On 12 August, Foreign Minister Winzer praised the Indian government for its "constructive policy of non-alignment and the countless initiatives aimed at preserving and consolidating world peace." He also reiterated an East German claim that a broad movement for the establishment of relations with the GDR has developed in India.

On 20 August Albert Norden repeated this theme in the left-wing Indian weekly, "Blitz." He also repeated the GDR argument that "those who want to advance on the road of security cannot bypass de jure recognition of the GDR." He asserted that recognition by third countries would help the "realistically thinking elements" in the FRG while procrastination would only encourage the extremists. Norden also reminded the Indians that the GDR was the first state outside Asia to recognize Bangladesh.

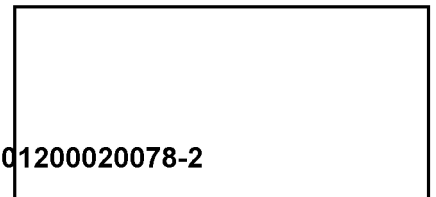
The East Germans have been particularly covetous of recognition by India, and over the past eight months there have been numerous reports that this step was being actively considered by the Indian government.



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It seems doubtful that Pankow's campaign will bear early fruit. India would have little to gain from early recognition, and Mrs. Gandhi would probably not want to endanger her relationship with Brandt. It is also unlikely that Pankow,

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at this time, would pay a high price (steel mill, etc) for recognition.

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A Polish Kitchen Cabinet?

A vague sort of "inner cabinet" seems to be emerging within the Polish leadership composed of party leader Gierek and three close advisors, according to a recent assessment from the embassy in Warsaw. The three, all of whom are members of both the politburo and the secretariat, are Franciszek Szlachcic, Jan Szydlak and Edward Babiuch. (Josef Teichma, who lost his position on the secretariat earlier this year, does not now rank within this group, according to the embassy, but he continues to enjoy Gierek's confidence and has a promising future.) First among equals is Szlachcic, whose rise to power over the past six months is described as phenomenal; he now is considered second only to Gierek. Szlachcic's gain has been Szydlak's loss, apparently, although the latter still ranks close to the top; he may have made a fatal error in incurring Moscow's suspicion for his proposed program of economic reforms. Babiuch also has lost some power to Szlachcic, but his position remains secure nonetheless.

The report describes Gierek as unquestioned party boss with no evident competitors. He continues to practice his open, accessible style of leadership and exercises over-all executive responsibilities in the politburo. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, he seems to enjoy genuine popularity throughout the country.

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Copernicus Studies Space Once Again

The successful launching of the US space satellite "Copernicus" has been given prominent and uniformly favorable press coverage in Warsaw. A Polish correspondent at Cape Kennedy for the launch noted that the scientific information gathered by "copernicus" will be made available to Polish scientists and quoted Polish Ambassador to the US Trampczynski as saying that the satellite is a tribute to Polish science and a "symbol of scientific/technical cooperation between Poland and USA."

The Poles are preparing celebrations for 1973 marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of early astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus and are extremely proud of their native son. Their warmth and genuine appreciation of this US

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gesture in giving an important scientific satellite the "Copernicus" name further illustrates how the US can, through simple yet highly effective means, demonstrate its interest in Poland. [REDACTED] 25X1

Croatian Students Protest Rate Increase

The Presidium of the Union of Students of Croatia has strongly criticized the announced 30% increase in the price of meals and accommodations in student hostels. In a press conference on 22 August, the student organization described the move as an attack on the students' standard of living, and rejected the Croatian government's statement that the rate increase would favorably affect conditions.

The student criticism comes at a time when both the federal and republic party organizations are devoting attention to bread-and-butter issues plaguing the nation's youth. It was this issue--student living conditions--which played a major role in instigating the 1968 Belgrade University riots, and was an element behind the student unrest in Croatia last year. Clearly the students are serving notice that they will not sit idly by and accept government policies which they feel run counter to their interests. [REDACTED] 25X1

Site of Davis Cup Final a Political Issue in Romania?

Bucharest feels very strongly about holding the finals of the Davis Cup tennis tournament in Romania because it would provide substantial political and psychological benefits to the Ceausescu regime.

According to the embassy, the Romanians are willing to agree to a neutral referee and to any "reasonable compromise" regarding arrangements. The Romanian press has not even hinted at the possibility of a change of venue to the US, though the subject is a hot topic of informal conversation.

The controversy arises because of a change this year in David Cup procedure. Previously, the defending champion awaited the conclusion of an elimination tournament to produce a challenger and then hosted that nation. As a result, the final round has been held either in the US or Australia for 35 years. This year the champion, the US, had to enter the elimination tournament with the idea of rotating the site of

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finals. Romania, the only Communist nation ever to reach the challenge round, has lost in the US twice in the last three years, including 1971. The intent clearly was that this year's final between the two should be played in Romania. However, there is another informal agreement that no nation could be forced to play both the semi-final and final round away from its home base. Since the US played Spain in Barcelona while Romania played the USSR in Bucharest, the USLTA is claiming the final round should again be in the US.

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